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DIRECTORATE OF
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*Robert Kennedy
Center*

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*Greece: The government sworn in yesterday appears in firm control, although real power may not reside with its ostensible leaders.

Actual control may be exercised by a small group of second echelon officers who engineered the takeover. Two of the five portfolios announced so far are held by these officers.

Rightist Constantine Kolias, prosecutor of the supreme court in Athens, is premier. Army Chief of Staff Spandidakis has assumed nominal leadership of the coup forces and will be deputy premier and defense minister.

King Constantine and high military officials probably were taken by surprise, but apparently decided they had no choice but to acquiesce in the coup.

Fear that opposition leaders George and Andreas Papandreou would carry the election scheduled for 28 May and institute a leftist government most probably caused the officers to seize power. The coup leaders, who had long planned their move, allege that they had solid information that the Communists planned riots and strikes in Athens for 22 April. A spokesman for the group has stated that the coup was intended to "ensure domestic tranquility, loyalty to the King and allegiance to NATO and the West." Prime Minister Kolias has promised a speedy return to parliamentary rule--but not before the "consolidation of normality" and the creation of "wholesome foundations."

Security forces are maintaining tight control in Athens and there are no reports of unrest elsewhere.

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* Because of the shortage of time for preparation of this item, the analytic interpretation presented here has been produced by the Central Intelligence Agency without the participation of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Department of State or of the Defense Intelligence Agency, Department of Defense.

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Leftist organizations have been raided and their leaders arrested. There are no indications of any leftist plans to challenge the coup.

Meanwhile, the new government is easing security measures. According to General Spandidakis, ex-prime minister Kanellopoulos, other government officials and the elder Papandreou were to be released last night. Andreas Papandreou was to remain in custody.

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West Germany: Bonn is strongly concerned over the nonproliferation treaty's indefinite duration despite the German representative's relatively forthcoming position at this week's North Atlantic Council meeting.

Chancellor Kiesinger reportedly believes that, after ten or 20 years, a country should be permitted to withdraw for reasons other than because it believes its "supreme national interests" to be in jeopardy--as the present draft provides. Kiesinger indicated that unless he can obtain some concession of this nature, he will not be able to get his party to accept the treaty.

Meanwhile, another major German concern--the problem of EURATOM acceptance of the treaty's safeguard provisions--has moved nearer to settlement. The Germans have proposed an amendment of the so-called "guillotine clause" in order to eliminate any reference to what would be done if EURATOM and the International Atomic Energy Authority fail to agree on safeguard arrangements. This solution may well meet the objections of other EURATOM countries.

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Lebanon: President Hilu has told Ambassador Porter that the Soviet Union has made an offer of "massive" economic aid to Lebanon.

Hilu claims he has kept the offer under wraps for some time and fears that he will come under heavy pressure from domestic and foreign Arab elements to accept it. The Lebanese Government has been severely criticized by radical pro-Nasir politicians for its failure to make progress with economic and social reforms and for its friendly attitude toward the US. Attacks against the US in the Lebanese press have increased, especially since Israeli Prime Minister Eshkol implied in an interview on 7 April that the American Sixth Fleet was protecting Israel.

The alleged offer fits into Moscow's current pattern of attempting to gain a foothold in the normally pro-Western countries of the area. The Soviets are active in aid projects in Iran, signed their first aid agreement with Jordan last November, and have unofficially sounded out the Saudi Arabians about the possibility of establishing diplomatic relations. The Soviets are not currently involved in any aid projects in Lebanon.

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NOTE

Israel-Syria: UN officials are becoming alarmed over the situation on the Israeli-Syrian border. Tel Aviv has charged that the organization and training of Fatah terrorist units is proceeding openly in Syria and that terrorists continue to make periodic forays into Israel. More Israeli cultivation in the demilitarized zones or intrusions by Syrian shepherds could easily provoke serious incidents. Both sides have responded negatively to UN efforts to stop such provocations.

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